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January 19 2011 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes – Final January 19, 2011

Present: Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Vita Cohen, Vice Chair Stacy Davison, Gary Horowitz, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, Chair Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney, Suzie Talukdar

Absent: Marlissa Briggett, Marlene Schultz

Open Forum –

No guests this evening

Review of December Minutes – Minutes accepted

Selection of Vice Chair –

Stacy Davison was nominated and has accepted the Vice Chair position. Congratulations and thank you for all the time and efforts you give to carry on the mission of the Human Rights Commission.

Incidents – Complaints –

No incidents were reported this month.

Civil Discourse Update

Chair Rhoads reported some departments within the town's small core group already have emergency reaction plans in place and that Chief Ryan was concerned about the possibility of conflict of interest issues. He suggested having an outside person to be a victim advocate. An organizational flow chart is in the works and the core group will be meeting again to fine tune their plans. The Chair will keep the commission posted on their progress.

Inter-group Meeting

Meeting postponed until February. The mission and membership of the various groups are very similar and the goal is to work to attract more citizens and to become more diversified – not an easy task.

Non-violence Training

Rev. Christine Elliot, Calvary Methodist Church, has volunteered space for the Wall of Silence training program. Mr. Dan Brown has volunteered his training services to begin in February or March. Details forthcoming.

Stand Against Racism

As Jill Lewis is no longer able to work on this program, the Chair has asked the Commission to consider how to move forward with the Stand Against Racism. Tabled at this meeting.

Sub-committee Reports –**Schools –**

There will be a coffee social at the library January 25th at 3:30 -
Arlington may be the host sight for an Affirmative Action Job Fair -
Today's Students – Tomorrow's Teachers – how to seek outside support
for this program as an incentive to High School students -
Principal Charlie Skidmore is retiring –

Policies & Procedures –

Commissioner Cohen will speak with Town Counsel, Julianne Rice in regard to the Open Meeting Law

Rapid Response –

Chair Rhoads met with Ms. Miriam Stein to discuss plans and expectations for the Rapid Response Network – the Chair reported some issues that will continue to be addressed.

Other Business –

The 2011 calendar and current membership listings have been distributed – adjustments will be made as requested.

Motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Submitted by:

*Marylynn Carnell
Staff Assistant*